

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-47. (canceled)

48. (currently amended) A method for ~~drying~~ condensing and recovering a solvent from a coating layer which is formed by applying a coating solution containing solvent to a moving web, comprising:

condensing vapor of said solvent by ~~a condensing mechanism disposed on a coating side of said moving web~~ a device for condensing and recovering said solvent arranged to face a surface of said coating layer having been formed on said web, and said device being composed of a condensing member and a recovery member; and

recovering the condensed vapor of said solvent by ~~a recovery mechanism~~ said device.; ~~and~~

~~keeping the temperature of said recovery mechanism higher than that of said condensing mechanism by a temperature control mechanism such that said vapor of said solvent does not condense on said recovery mechanism.~~

49. (currently amended) The method claimed in claim 48, wherein said condensing ~~mechanism~~ member and said recovery ~~mechanism~~ member are thermally insulated from each other.

50. (canceled)

51. (canceled)

52. (currently amended) The method claimed in claim 48, wherein said recovery ~~mechanism~~ member is connected to said condensing ~~mechanism~~ member, and said condensed vapor flows into said recovery ~~mechanism~~ member from said condensing ~~mechanism~~ member.

53. (new) The method claimed in claim 48, further comprising keeping a temperature of said recovery member higher than that of said condensing member by a temperature control mechanism such that said vapor of said solvent does not condense on said recovery member.

54. (new) The method claimed in claim 48, wherein said condensing member and said recovery member are integrated with each other.

55. (new) The method claimed in claim 54, wherein surfaces of said condensing member and said recovery member for

facing a surface of said coating layer are parallel to a moving direction, and said moving direction is reverse to a gravitational direction, and said recovery member is disposed at an upstream position from said condensing member along said moving direction.

56. (new) A method for condensing and recovering a solvent from a coating layer which is formed by applying a coating solution containing solvent to a moving web, comprising:

condensing vapor of said solvent by a device for condensing and recovering said solvent arranged to face a surface of said coating layer having been formed on said web, and said device being composed of a condensing member and a recovery member; and

recovering the condensed vapor of said solvent by said device;

wherein a distance between said surface of said condensing member and said surface of said coating layer is in a range of 5 mm to 10 mm.

57. (new) The method claimed in claim 48, wherein protrusions and grooves are formed in a surface of the condensing member.

58. (new) The method claimed in claim 56, wherein protrusions and grooves are formed in a surface of the condensing member.